Beedi Workers.

10. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Heart Diseases.
11. Re-inbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Kidney Transplantation.

SOCIAL SECURITY

1. Group Insurance Scheme.

HOUSING

1. Build Your Own House Scheme.
2. Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Section of Beedi Workers.
3. Grant of subsidy to Co-operative Societies of Beedi Industry for construction of worksheds and godowns.
4. Group Housing Scheme.

EDUCATION

1. Award of Scholarship to the Children of Beedi Workers (including Gharkata Beedi Workers)
2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of Beedi Workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.
3. Payment of incentives on passing final University/Board examination from High School onwards.
4. Scheme to provide incentives/financial assistance of Re. 1/- to female children of Beedi Workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

RECREATION

1. Establishment of Audio-Visual Sets/Cinema Vans/Exhibition of
2. Organisation sports, games, social and cultural activities for Beedi Workers.
3. Holiday Home Scheme for Beedi Workers.
4. Supply of T.V. Sets to the Beedi Workers Industrial Co-operative Societies.
5. Establishment of community Hall in Beedi Workers Housing colonies with Colour T.V. Sets.

Pension for Agricultural Workers

4327. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give pension to all agricultural workers after attaining sixty years of age;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the welfare measures being im plemented by Government for the old agricultural workers who cannot work in field due to old age?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) All States and Union Territory Administrations are running old age pension schemes under which pension is granted at varying rates to old persons generally beyond the age of 65 years with relaxation for destitutes, widows, disabled and in certain cases to agricultural workers and females. Some States like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal, Gujarat are running separate schemes for agricultural workers. The Government of India also announced a National Social Assistance Scheme (NSAS) for the poor which inter-alia contemplates old age pension @ Rs. 75/- per month to destitute persons over 65 years of age.

(c) In addition to the above there are several schemes for the benefit of the poor and the old. A scheme for the life insurance of the 1RDP beneficiaries came into force in 1988. Social Security Fund operated through LIC subsidises insurance premia for 23 approved occupations including farmers. The Personal Accident Insurance Scheme of G1C for poor families has been extended to all destitutes in the country since August, 1988. There are also schemes for the insurance of cattle, live-stock, agricultural pump sets, fire insurance cover for huts and belongings of landless labourers etc.

Recruitment of workers in Tea Gardens in West Bengal

4328. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh recruitment of work ers in the tea gardens of North-Bengal has been stopped since 1983 despite in crease in the production as well as in the plantation area of the each crop in the region;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Labour Commissioner of the area is aware of the whole situa tion;

(d) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure employ ment of unemployed workers in tea gar dens to avoid their search for employ ment in other States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unemployed persons registered in Employment Exchanges in Punjab

4329. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons registered in different employment exchanges in the districts of Punjab during the last three years;

(b) the category-wise details of hand-icapped persons, terrorist affected women etc. registered in these exchanges in the State during this period, district-wise;

(c) the number, out of them, of persons who have been provided jobs in various Government establishments, district-wise; and

(c) the number of persons to be provided jobs through these employment exchanges during 1997-98 alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The number of registrations made in respect of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, by the employment exchanges in Punjab during the year 1994, 1995 and 1996 is furnished, district-wise, in the StatementI enclosed. *(See below)*

(b) No separate figures of terrorist affected women are maintained by the employment exchanges. Information in regard to handicapped persons is fur nished in the Statement-II enclosed. *(See below)*

(c) Information in regard to handicap ped persons is furnished in Statement-Ill enclosed. *(See below)*

(d) Employment Exchanges do not provide the jobs. They only sponsor can didates as per the demand of the em ployers.

Statement-I

Number of registrations made during the year

S.	*Name of District No.*	*No. of registrations made during the year*		
		1994	*1995*	*1996*
1.	Amritsar	14998	20830	26332
2.	Gurdaspur	14248	20761	26547
3.	Jalandhar	11233	10833	14271
4.	Nawanshehar	—	2042	4971